

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

If you are served with these papers, one of these things has happened:

1. A Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) has been issued against you; **OR**
2. The Petitioner requested an HRO. No Order has yet been issued, but a hearing has been scheduled to decide whether an Order will be issued; **OR**
3. An HRO has been issued against you and the Petitioner has requested a hearing.

***See the attached Order for specific details in your case. Review it carefully.  
If a hearing has been scheduled you must attend or the Court may issue the Order without you.***

### **What is a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO)?**

A person who is a victim of harassment may seek an HRO from the Court. An HRO prohibits contact and harassment. An HRO may be issued against a person or against an organization.

### **What is Harassment?**

Minnesota state law ([Minn. Stat. § 609.748](#)) defines harassment as ANY of the following:

- A single incident of physical or sexual assault **OR**
- Repeated incidents of intrusive or unwanted acts, words, or gestures that have a substantial adverse effect, or are intended to have a substantial adverse effect, on another person's safety, security or privacy **OR**
- Targeted residential picketing (defined in state law) **OR**
- A pattern of attending public events after being notified that one's attendance at those events is harassing to another.

### **Scheduling a hearing**

If you want a hearing, you must fill out and file the attached form called "Request for Hearing" **within 45 days of the date you received these papers**. You must file at the Court located in the [Hennepin County Government Center](#) at 300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487. A filing fee of \$324 will be due, by cash, check, or money order payable to "District Court." If you can't afford the filing fee, you may ask for a waiver of the fee, called an *In Forma Pauperis* (IFP) Order. You must fill out the IFP application in person at the Civil Intake Counter or the Self-Help Center at the Government Center. You will then speak to a judge who will tell you if the filing fee can be waived. If you file the Request for Hearing within 45 days of the day you receive the HRO, the Court will schedule a hearing and will send a notice of the date and time of the hearing to both parties.

At the first hearing, you may have an attorney but it is not necessary. There will be mediators and more information available to help you and the other party settle this matter. Do not bring witnesses or evidence to this hearing - they will not be allowed. **If you do not come to the hearing, the Court may issue the Order against you in your absence.**

**Change of Address:** The Court needs your current mailing address. Tell the Court right away if you have a change of address. This is very important.

### **VIOLATIONS**

**If you know that there is an HRO against you and you violate that Order, you may be charged with the crime of Violation of a Restraining Order.** This offense may be a misdemeanor, a gross misdemeanor, or a felony, depending on all the facts and circumstances.